

Message Text

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INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103983

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

-- BARNUM

REF: A) BONN 07039 DTG 271646Z APR 76; B) MAAG BONN

-- 021825Z APR 76

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1. VFW FOKKER MARITIME PATROL, SEARCH AND RESCUE AIRCRAFT,

614, APPARENTLY REMAINS A SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR PROCUREMENT BY THE US COAST GUARD (42 AIRCRAFT, APPROXIMATELY \$164 MILLION). POSSIBLE LINKAGE EXISTS WITH GERMAN NAVY'S PURCHASE OF LOCKHEED S-3A MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT (15 A/C, APPROXIMATELY \$350 MILLION). SEE REF B.

2. WE WISH TO REINFORCE FRG UNDERSTANDING THAT US WILL CONSIDER VFW FOKKER 614 WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR FURTHER STANDARDIZATION WITHIN NATO. SHOULD THE GERMANS VIEW THE VFW FOKKER 614 BID AS BEING TREATED OTHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF FULL OBJECTIVITY, THIS COULD ALSO AFFECT PROGRAMS SUCH AS NATO AEW AND XM-1/ LEOPARD 2 TANK COMPARATIVE EVALUATION. THE IMPORTANCE WHICH FRG ATTACHES TO THE POSSIBLE US COAST GUARD PURCHASE OF THE VFW 614 IS ATTESTED TO BY THE FACT THAT MOD INCLUDED IT AS ONE OF THE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH DURING HIS VISIT TO BONN EARLIER THIS MONTH. WHILE THIS MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE MOD AND DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH, ITS POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY BARNUM DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO BONN PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE FUNDAMENTAL US POLICY THAT A BROAD APPROACH TO EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAINING NATO CAPABILITY AT A REALISTICALLY ACCEPTABLE COST. SPECIFICALLY, THE VFW FOKKER 614 CONSIDERATION WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY.

3. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST THAT EMBASSY BONN BRIEF SECRETARY BARNUM ON RELATION OF NATO STANDARDIZATION POLICY TO POSSIBLE 614 BUY, PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH MINISTER GSCHIEDLE (REF B).

4. FOREGOING MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH DOD AND DOT.

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